Forest dwellers as real protectors of forests

921. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forest dwellers are the real protectors of forests and wild-life;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps for the welfare of forest dwellers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) It is a fact that the forest fringe villagers are involved in the protection, regeneration and development of forests, and preservation of wildlife.

(b) and (c) Under Joint Forest Management (JFM) resolutions of the State Governments, the beneficiaries are entitled to a share in usufructs like grasses, lops and tops, branches, minor forest produce and timber, in the proportion prescribed in the State JFM resolution.

Losses due to fire in pine forests

†922. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial losses caused yearly by fire in pine forests, State-wise;

(b) whether Government provide financial aid to the States having pine forests every year;

(c) if so, the details of the assistance provided in this regard to Uttaranchal during the last five years;

(d) whether his Ministry proposes to increase the assistance being provided therefor in view of the environmental importance of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.